(b) The domestic consumption for the last three years are as under:

Year	Quantity (in lakh bales of 170 kgs each)
1995-96	154.29
1996-97	170.16
1997-98	158.88*

(*as estimated by Cotton Advisory Board in its meeting dated 19.11.1998). Demand for cotton is decided by many factors including supply, general economic situation in the country and abroad, etc.

(c) and (d) Apart from the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. which intervenes in the market when market price of kapas touches Support Price (MSP) announced by the Government ahd the Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) analyses the overall cotton scenario in the country. The Government of India, from time to time, releases quota for the export of raw cotton after considering various aspects and balancing various interests. The cotton situation is closely being watched. The plan to implement Technology Mission on Cotton Development is in advanced stage of finalisation.

राष्ट्रीय कपड़ा निगम और इसकी सहायक वस्त्र इकाइयों की लेखा परीक्षा

1855. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी. सोलंकी** : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या कई वर्षो से राष्ट्रीय कपड़ा निगम (एन.टी.सी.) और इसकी सहायक कपड़ा मिलों के खाते में लेखा परीक्षा नहीं की गई हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या महाराष्ट्र, गुजरात और अन्य राज्यों में कपड़ा मिलों तथा उनके कार्यालयों में वित्तीय गड़बड़ियां की गई हैं और वहां से संपत्तियां गायब हैं;

(घ) क्या इस संबंध में कोई उच्च स्तरीय जांच की गई है;

(ड.) राष्ट्रीय कपड़ा निगम के सभी प्रभागों की लेखा-परीक्षा कराने हेतु क्या कार्यवाही की गई हैं; और

(च) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री काशीराम राणा) : (क), (ख) और (ड.) जी, नहीं। एन.टी.सी. की सभी मिलों और उनके सहायक निगमों के लेखाओं के बारे में लेखा परीक्षा वर्ष 1996-97 तक पूरी हो गई हैं। वर्ष 1997-98 के लिए लेखा परीक्षा की जा रही हैं।

(ग) और (घ) एन.टी.सी. (धारक कंपनी) ने सांवधिक सूचना देने की प्रणाली बनाई हैं जिसके द्वारा जब कभी भी गुम परिसंपत्ति अथवा वित्तीय अनियमितताओं आदि के बारे में कोई सूचना प्राप्त होती हैं तो उस पर विभागीय जांच, एफ.आई.आर. दर्ज कराने आदि जैसी उपयुक्त कार्यवाई की जाती हैं।

(च) वर्ष 1996-97 तक एन.टी.सी. की वार्षिक रिपोर्टो के साथ लेखा परीक्षित लेखा सदन के सभा पटल पर रख दिए हैं।

Closure of Azam Jahi Mill in Andhra Pradesh

1856. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Azam Jahi Mills, a public sector Textile Mill in Warangal District in Andhra Pradesh has recently been closed down throwing thousands of workers out of employment and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that forty four Workers' unions have highlighted their problem of unemployment and livelihood; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to rehabilitate these workers and to bring the jnill back on way to industrial recovery?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The Azam Jahi Mills, Warangal has not been closed down. However, the production activities in the mill have been suspended due to non-viability of operation and shortage of working capital. The wages of permanent workers are being paid.

(b) During the past two months, there have been agitations by some Unions. The Badli workers are agitating and demanding idle wages on par with the permanent workers.

(c) On the basis of a unit wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of these mills turning positive, within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

Textile Mills closed in Assam

1857. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of textile mills lying closed in Assam, mill-wise;

(b) the production capacity of these mills which is being lost everyday; and

(c) the effective measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) As on 30.9.98, 4 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills were lying closed in the State of Assam. The names of the mills and the capacity affected are given below:

Name of the mill	Capacity Affected (spindles)
Assam Coop. Spg. Mills	7680
Assam Polvtex	16184
Sahid Kusal Kanwar Sutakal Ltd.	11040
Assam Syntex Ltd.	17280

(c) Among other measures taken by the Government to tackle the problems of industrial sickness in general (including textiles) was the establishment of a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. Recently the Government have set up an Expert Committee under "the Chairmanship of Shri S.R. Sathyam, a former Secretary (Textiles) inter-alia, to have a fresh look at the existing Textile Policy. One of the terms of references of the said Committee is to review the measures taken so far for tackling sickness in the textile industry and to make suggestions for improving the economic viability of the textile industry as also to identify steps which would be necessary to prevent and tackle sickness in the industry, including the need for structural adjustments through re-deployment of labour and capital.

In addition, a Textile Upgradation Fund Scheme is being proposed to be launched to encourage investment in new technology. The Scheme intends to give accent to the post spinning sub sectors (weaving, processing and garments) to be financed by the financial institutions with the Government extending an interest incentive of 5 percentage points. Also, a Cotton Technology Mission has been proposed for cotton development aiming to cover in a coordinated fashion different areas like increasing productivity, improving research, marketing and post harvest activities.

Discontinuation of Janata Cloth Scheme

1858. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a prop osal to discontinue the Janata Cloth Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons for taking such decision;

(c) whether any other alternative scheme is proposed to be introduced to provide cloth to the people below the poverty line at reasonable prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) A Committee constituted in the year 1991, to review the Janata Cloth Scheme